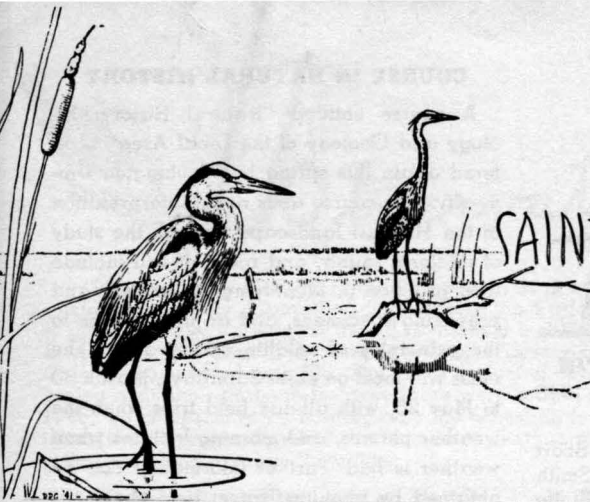




SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 15, No. 2

March, 1946

LAND OF THE LONGHORNS

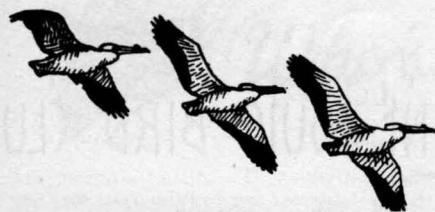
As regularly as the sun crosses the official line that divides winter from spring, Alfred M. Bailey of the Colorado Museum of Natural History returns to St. Louis with a new all-color motion picture. This year marks his fifth appearance before a St. Louis Bird Club audience. It will be an all kodachrome journey with a naturalist through the Lone Star State, filming animal and plant life from the mountains of the West to the islands of the Gulf Coast. The film sequence shows bison on the plains, superseded by now famous longhorns, which in turn were replaced by other species of cattle. Among the color shots are quail, antelope, sheep in the desert, the historic Alamo, a picturesque scissor-tailed flycatcher feeding its young upon walking sticks, Attwater's prairie chicken on its strutting ground, bass fishing, nesting birds of Eagle Lake, and tumble weeds just tumbling along. The photographer then visits various island sanctuaries along the Gulf of Mexico, films remarkable colonies of reddish and American egrets, white and glossy ibis, quaint skimmers, gull-billed and royal terns, and the colorful, grotesque roseate spoonbills . . . and finally we go to the million acre King Ranch, larger than all of Rhode Island, for unusual observations of Texas white-tailed deer, roadrunners feeding young, and iridescent Rio Grande turkeys in dramatic courtship display. The date is Wednesday, March 27th . . . the place, Soldan High Auditorium . . . the time, 8:15 p.m. It will be like a reunion meeting with an old acquaintance and entertaining friend. Don't miss it.



ALFRED M. BAILEY

ANNUAL LOYALTY NIGHT

Once each year the St. Louis Bird Club finds it necessary to call upon its loyal members and friends to help it carry on its ever growing program. Unfortunately regular membership dues do not begin to cover the operational cost of the Club's educational program, and must be augmented by contributions from those who wish to see the work continued with its accustomed vigor. Within a few days the Club's annual Loyalty Night appeal will reach you by mail. Membership has now reached a record-breaking figure of 1343, which means increased running expenses, and has necessitated the employing of an executive secretary to handle the Club's responsibilities, and the major burden of the work. A part of your regular dues is devoted to national conservation purposes, part of it to the educational lecture program, part to the publishing of the Bulletin, the remainder to many miscellaneous costs, such that a considerable deficit at the end of each season must be made up through your loyalty. Attending the one Loyalty Night lecture alone will recompense you for your contribution. For the attraction this year is none other than Bert Harwell, who will be remembered by many of our members for his outstanding past performances here in St. Louis, when he captivated his audiences with whistled bird song interpretations, and colorful wildlife motion pictures. Now he returns to us on April 25th with an entirely new film, entitled "Outdoor Symphony", which promises to be one of the outstanding nature events of the year. Attend Bird Club Loyalty Night and be as "loyal" as the old china teapot will allow.



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

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A QUICK TRIP

Alexander Sprunt, Jr., served in his familiar role of nature guide on February 1st., when he took his audience of 1000 on a several thousand mile field trip. His fifty-minute tour from the coast of Florida to the crest of the Rockies was the shortest fifty minutes on record. Close-ups of many birds of the Gulf Coast gave us a picture of several species unfamiliar to most St. Louisans, spoonbills, ibis, skimmers, oyster catchers, phalaropes, herons, egrets, avocets, as well as many other interesting bird families. Mr. Sprunt then took us on a trip to the West through the Navajo country of Arizona, into the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, to the cliff palaces of Mesa Verde, and on to the fabulous Yellowstone area, with its almost unbelievably strange and beautiful phenomena. Hurry back, Mr. Sprunt.

ALL YOU BIRDERS!

Roger Tory Peterson is now engaged in revising his Eastern Field Guide, boon companion of so many of us. He will give serious consideration to helpful identification suggestions for the new edition. Mail your ideas to S. B. Heckler, 1207 N. 7th St., and they will be forwarded to Mr. Peterson.

COURSE IN NATURAL HISTORY

A course entitled "Natural History: Biology and Geology of the Local Area" is offered again this spring by Washington University. The course aims at an interpretation of the Missouri landscape through the study of its flora, fauna, and rocks. It will include also practice in identifying, collecting, and preparing specimens, and an introduction to the principles of wildlife conservation. The class will meet on eight Saturdays, March 30 to May 25, with all-day field trips when the weather permits, and morning lectures when weather is bad. Further information can be obtained by phoning University College, at Washington University.

GUIDED TOURS AT ROCKWOODS

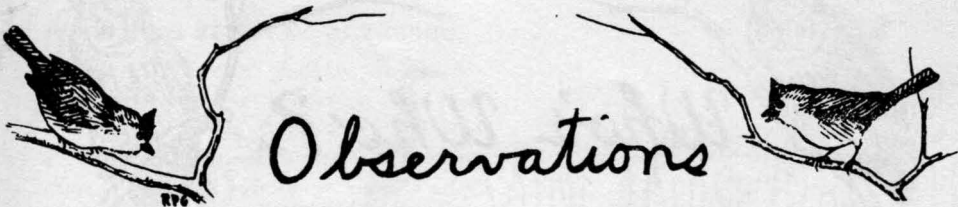
The series of guided nature tours given by the Missouri Conservation Commission last year, at Rockwoods Reservation, will be continued in 1946, with activities scheduled on all Sundays and holidays from March 31st to November 3rd. Two kinds of tours will be offered, "Explorations" and "Drive and Hike Tours." All of the tours will be conducted by Harold O'Byrne, Naturalist at Rockwoods. Most of them will last about two hours, starting at 2 p.m. No charge will be made for participation. Descriptive schedules of each month's trips can be obtained by writing to Rockwoods Reservation, Glencoe, Missouri.

CHECK LISTS AVAILABLE

Check lists of St. Louis area birds are available. They are handy to have along on field trips, and cost only 2 for 5c or 50 for \$1.00. They can be obtained at the desk, at lectures.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

Kindly direct all phone calls to the Bird Club office, Central 0631.



The composite 1945 list of the St. Louis area is not impressive. The total of 213 does not contain any really outstanding finds except the Kirtland's warbler, bird of the year for '45. Richard Reichle, Jr., was far ahead of the field in 1945, coming up with 199 species in the St. Louis area. Youth and perseverance won a deserving victory. Congratulations, Dick! Earl Comfort was second with 190. The usual custom of choosing the 12 best birds of the year presented a difficult problem because there were so few really outstanding finds. Therefore, for 1945, we compromise by naming only the 6 best birds of the year. And even among some of these it is a tossup as to which are the rarest. So that, while the list might be arranged in other order, we would arrange them thus:

1. Kirtland's warbler, seen on May 20, near the east approach to Chain of Rocks Bridge, by Mr. and Mrs. Miles W. Hopkins.

2. Wilson's phalarope, seen by many in St. Charles County on the annual Spring Census (last Sunday in April).

3. Yellow-crowned night heron, at Creve Coeur Lake, on the same day.

4. Blue Grosbeak, in Webster Groves, seen by Beulah Bedell, in May.

5. Clay-colored sparrow, seen near Webster Groves, by group, November 11, 1945.

6. Sanderling, observed in spring near Dupo, Illinois, by several persons.

Joan Henry's New Year's resolution to find more and better birds in 1946 bore fruit early. On New Year's Day she had the thrill of finding a male evening grosbeak in Forest Park. This, the bird of the month, may well be the bird of the year.

Robins held the bird spotlight during January. They were seen on practically every field trip during the month; lawns of the city and suburbs were often adorned by these traditional harbingers of spring. Ordinarily a few robins remain during the winter in some sheltered retreats but in most years they are not seen in such quantities. Leonard Hall reported numbers of them wintering near his Possum Trot farm; and Erwin Knapp reported them by the hundreds near Robertsville. Bob and Helen Hill found them numerous near their home in St. Louis County. In St. Charles, too, they wintered in large numbers, particularly at Weber Lake.

"June in January" was the theme this winter, not only for robins but for other species as well. The following species, usually scarce or entirely missing during the dead of winter, were not uncommon this year during January: mourning dove, kingfisher, red-headed woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, bluebird, migrant shrike, meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, bronzed grackle, white-crowned sparrow, fox sparrow and swamp sparrow. A total of 48 species were seen by one group on January 7th, a very fine list for any winter day.

Among the other good finds of 1945 were: red-backed sandpiper, Lapland longspur, horned grebe, barn owl, snowy egret, hooded warbler, duck hawk, golden eagle, common loon, greater scaup duck, Virginia rail, Florida gallinule, Baird's and western sandpipers, yellow-bellied flycatcher, red-breasted nuthatch, Brewer's blackbird, Connecticut warbler, Philadelphia vireo, and white-fronted goose.

Virginia Eifert of Springfield, Ill., reports that she and her husband listed 2 evening grosbeaks on their 1945 Christmas bird count. Mrs. Eifert is editor of the Illinois State Museum Bulletin, "The Living Museum", and is author of that delightful book, "Birds in Your Back Yard".

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Who's Who?



S. B. HECKLER

The Board of Directors of the St. Louis Bird Club has announced the appointment of S. B. Heckler, of New York, formerly of St. Louis, as the Club's Executive Secretary. Mr. Heckler assumed his duties on Feb. 1st, and will shoulder the responsi-

bilities of carrying out the Club's ever enlarging program. A graduate of Amherst College, Mr. Heckler later received his Master's degree at Brown University, in Providence, R. I., and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. His long-time avocation of bird study and his interests in the cause of conservation well qualify him for his position as Executive Secretary of the Club.

Dr. Arnold Zempel, Associate Professor of Economics and Statistics at Washington University, who recently returned to St. Louis after a long period in the service, introduced Alexander Sprunt, Jr., at the Bird Club's last lecture.

During February, Helen Einspanier, head of our Door Committee, went to Florida, where she took part in the Audubon Wildlife Tours in the Okeechobee region. She was overwhelmed by the wealth of Southern wildlife, and added many new "life birds" to her list.

Dick Grossenheider has been commissioned by the St. Louis Zoological Gardens to paint identification portraits of specimens at the Zoo.

Congratulations to Lewis Vollmar, son of Col. and Mrs. Joseph Vollmar, and to Olive Sears, who were married on February 2nd.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have been recently added to our membership rolls:

Mrs. J. A. Anderson, Walter Been, Edgar A. Blair, Robert W. Bock, Gordon Bracken, Corinne N. Bringhurst, Mrs. Paul Brown, John M. Buese, G. G. Burgard, D. F. Coleman, John C. Curtis, Ethel Doerr, Molly Felker, Mrs. Arthur W. Felt, Elizabeth Ferrel, William M. Foersterling, Virginia Fraser, Jack Gilmore, Stuart Goldstein, H. R. Grummann, Mrs. H. M. Harned, Goldie A. Harrington, Julia Hofer, Pershing Hofslund, Mrs. Pershing Hofslund, Richard Holm, Frank Holz, Mrs. Charlotte Hughes, Mrs. P. G. Hurford, Eldridge King, Mrs. Eldridge King, F. A. Kohlberg, Francis W. Kohlberg, Mary Krueger, Edwin A. Krummenacker, Andrew W. Landgraf, Wm. E. Liggett, Mrs. Wm. E. Liggett, Ann Lockhart, G. Loeffel, Jean Loeffel, Randy Loving, Marcy Luecking, M. D. McCormack, Zoe McDonald, George C. Mackay, Clara A. Mangelsdorf, Mrs. Hattie Meckfessel, Mrs. Leonard Meiners, Mrs. A. G. Miller, David Mohrman, Grace Mulholland, Mary Louise Penn, John MacIvor Perkins, Mrs. Sally L. Petersen, Mrs. Joseph H. Roblee, Frank Rohrer, Wm. Schreiner, F. W. Schroeder, Jessie Schweizer, H. R. Speer, Robert Stewart, E. Thompson, G. C. Thompson, Isabel Tucker, Raymond S. Vogel, Mrs. S. Vogel, Emma D. Wangelin, Josie K. Wangelin, Neil Waterbury, C. R. Wells, Virginia Wheeling, Helen M. Wiesler, Carl Wilhelm, Enno D. Winius, Genevieve Wood and Mrs. Arnold Zempel.

We learn through Charles Remington's father that Charles is able to carry on his natural science activities even while in service in Northern Japan. Charles has the distinction of having discovered two new species of insects during his travels.

Bill Dierker writes that he is back in the U. S. after many months in the Pacific, where, among other birds, he observed blackfooted and wandering albatross, and man-o'-war birds. He hopes to be with us in St. Louis soon.